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Agenda items 8 and 78

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters, from 2 March to 3 April 1992. The report of the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session will be issued as document A/CONF.151/PC/128. The report contains certain recommendations for action by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. It will therefore be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 78.

2. At its 64th meeting, on 30 March 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Dates of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (see decision 4/1 below). 1/

3. At its 70th meeting, on 3 April 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Observer status in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for associate members of regional commissions" (see decision 4/2 below).

4. Also at its 70th meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Status of the European Community at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (see decision 4/3 below).

1/ The decisions in the present report have been numbered for ease of reference. The final numbering will appear in the report of the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session (A/CONF.151/PC/128).

5. At its 71st meeting, on 3 April 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference" (see decision 4/4 below).

6. The following four draft decisions are transmitted herewith to the General Assembly for action:

4/1. Dates of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, noting that the Moslem Feast of Ed-Al-Adha will start on 10 or 11 June 1992, recommends to the General Assembly that the dates of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development be changed from 1 to 12 June 1992 to 3 to 14 June 1992, with pre-session consultations to take place on 1 and 2 June 1992.

4/2. Observer status in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for associate members of regional commissions

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/202 of 21 December 1990 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries, in which the Assembly, inter alia, expressed concern about the adverse effects on those countries of sea-level rise resulting from climate change,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991, in which the Assembly endorsed decision 3/12 of 4 September 1991 of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, on participation in the Conference, stressed the importance of the participation of developing countries in the preparatory process and in the Conference, and requested the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session to review relevant parts of the annex to section E of its decision 3/11, with a view to ensuring adequate and full participation of developing countries in the Conference and in its subsidiary bodies,

Taking into account provisions of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, providing for associate membership,

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly that it reopen consideration of agenda item 78 entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", at its forty-sixth session and that it adopt the following draft decision:

Observer status in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for associate members of regional commissions

The General Assembly decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to invite, in addition to those listed in paragraph 9 of its resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991, associate members of regional commissions to participate in the work of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the capacity of observers;

(b) To amend the draft provisional rules recommended to the Conference by adding the following new rule:

Rule 65 bis

Associate members of regional commissions

Representatives designated by associate members of regional commissions may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

4/3. Status of the European Economic Community at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991 and the previous resolutions of the Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also that, in accordance with Assembly resolution 46/168, the European Economic Community has been invited to participate in the Conference as an observer,

Noting that the European Economic Community has been transferred exclusive competence over certain matters within the purview of the Conference and that, as a result, the rights of participation normally accorded observers would not allow the Community to participate effectively in the Conference,

Recommends to the General Assembly the following amendments to the draft provisional rules of the Conference 2/ in order to allow the European Economic Community to participate fully in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development:

Rule 1

In line 1, after the word "Conference", the words "and that of the European Economic Community", should be inserted.

Rule 3

In line 5, after the words "Minister for Foreign Affairs", the words "or, in the case of the European Economic Community, by the President of the European Commission" should be inserted.

Rule 24, paragraph 1

In line 2, after the word "Conference", the words "or of the European Economic Community" should be inserted.

Rule 24, paragraph 3

In line 1, after the word "State", the words "or of the European Economic Community" should be inserted.

Rules 25, 26 and 27

In line 1, after the word "representative", the words "of any State participating in the Conference" should be inserted.

Rule 47

In line 1, after the word "Conference", the words "and the European Economic Community" should be inserted.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/46/48), vol. II, annex I, decision 3/11 E.

Rules 51, paragraph 2, and 52, subparagraph (a)

At the end, the words "provided that they are representatives of participating States" should be added.

Rule 63

At the beginning, the words "Save where otherwise specifically provided with respect to the European Economic Community in these rules of procedure," should be inserted.

4/4. Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, recalling its decision 3/11 of 4 September 1991, entitled "Provisional agenda, organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference", 3/ decides to recommend that rule 6 of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference should be revised to read as follows:

"The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 39 Vice-Presidents and an ex officio Vice-President from the host country and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions."

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/46/48), vol. II, annex I.